

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

The Northwoods Humane Society dog walk was given a beautiful day on September 11. The event began with the pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scouts Troup #70 followed by Ken Frame singing the National Anthem. We all took a moment of silence to remember the heroes, those lost and nation impacted by 9/11.

We were honored to Sawyer County Sheriff Doug Morteck and Sawyer County Animal Control Officer Brandon Blichcarz joining the day. The walk was led by Sawyer County Animal Search and Rescue Officer Jim Kujala, his wife Jessica, daughter Morgan and Akela and Aina. On the return from the walk volunteer Nicole Bergroschtje from the Hayward Area Memorial Hospital and Waters Edge handed out Dilly Bars and Pup Cups donated by Hayward's Dairy Queen.

Sponsors are always an important part of any fundraising event. This year's sponsors were Hayward Animal Hospital, Leading Edge Veterinary Care, Frandsen Bank, Susan Sharp Miley, Attorney at Law, Beehive Botanical, Dr. David Kelling, Shell Lake State Bank, Art Beat of Hayward, and Hayward Area Memorial Hospital and Waters Edge.

This past Thursday, the NHS Thrift Shop held a volunteer meeting. It was an open forum – each attendee shared thoughts about what works well and areas we should take a look at. It was nice to have everyone in the same room as we all come in on different days.

It was agreed by all that it was a super summer for the shop. Knowing that the income from the shop is such a very important part of our budget, we all smiled knowing that the hard work had paid off.

Pricing donated items is an evolving art form. Our volunteers have developed guidelines and ranges. "People entrust us with their donations, and we work to merit their trust and work for the animals.

We addressed issues such as all volunteers wearing a NHS logo item so that customers can identify a volunteer. Our great aprons with the big hot pink paw print are always available as are t-shirts and sweatshirts at cost.

Coming soon will be the 'Christmas Challenge'. We receive a wide assortment of Christmas décor throughout the year. We always have a small Christmas display area in the shop. The shop has an off-site storage area where we keep Christmas items – it is near to being full. In the near future we will begin to transfer these items to the shop for sale. We don't want to overwhelm the shop but find a happy balance between a lot of Xmas and still the wonderful 'other' gift items .

Space is always an issue. I don't know if we could ever have too much space. Currently, we have more space than we have ever had – but we can use more. Careful thought goes into display areas and space usage. A group will evaluate some needs and suggestions. We are always a work in progress which is fun and energizing. (The NordicTrack Treadmill is still waiting for a buyer! It is in excellent condition.)

We talked about hours. An ideal would be to open at 10 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. This is possible if we had two shifts a day and two volunteers at each shift. During the covid era, we had to reduce our hours

due to fewer volunteers. A volunteer could do a full day – but that can be intense. Currently we are open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. These hours may be adjusted to 11 am to 3 p.m. as some of our summer volunteers leave us. Again, this is a work in progress. If you would like to be a winter volunteer please give me a call at 715-634-4543.

I was asked to share with our donors that we are no longer doing the 'shoe drive'. During this time we were able to take any shoe in any condition. These shoes were repurposed by a company. Now, we ask for donations of gently worn shoes for men and women – indoor and outdoor. We sell a lot of shoes. We no longer have an outlet for the hard worn shoes.

As I write this article, there are 65 cats and 22 dogs waiting for homes. (None of them are beagles!)

Date to Save:

October 11 – Purple Cat Van – Free Spay and Neuter Clinic for Cats – Call NHS 715-634-5394 to schedule an appointment. This is designed for owned and feral cats.